

Technology is revolutionising farming

Smart phones and ROVs just the start

INTRODUCTION

Farmers are increasingly turning to science and cutting edge technologies to increase their productivity and help overcome ever increasing input costs and labour market impacts.

Conversations between farmers at social occasions are as likely now to be about what crop program they run and what tablet or smart phone they use as it is about the weather or sport.

A gaming type console hand piece is these days probably in the front seat of a farm vehicle and an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) or drone in the back. There is hardly room for the dog these days.

But is this burst of technology into farming a one-of catch-up, or is technology really going to revolutionise farming?

The Council of Grain Grower Organisations is confident that research and development, including into technologies, is fundamental to successful farming into the future.

“The United Nations estimates the world’s population will grow to 9.6 billion by 2050, an increase of 2.4 billion from 2012,” according to COGGO Chairman Chris Wilkins.

“This will mean essentially a doubling of current agricultural output to feed this population increase and let’s not forget that most of the world’s arable land is already under the plough, and that global water supplies are in deficit.

“To me, it is very obvious that we need to make sure that technology potential is realised, both for the good of humanity and the profitability of our farmers,” he said.

COGGO is pleased to highlight some of the technologies already delivered or being developed with financial assistance from grain grower members.

COGGO is a public company formed by West Australian grain growers concerned about the level of resources being allocated to research in the state. It is a general R&D funder providing grants to applicants who can demonstrate innovative ideas that will boost grain farm productivity or benefit grain growers’ profitability through projects for geographic, crop specific sectors or the general grains industry. Grain grower members contribute annually to this fund.